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COMPARISON OF REACTION CROSS SECTIONS FOR TWO DSMC MODELS AND SENSITIVITY IN NONEQUILIBRIUM FLOW

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Introduction: DSMC Chemistry Models



- Important for hypersonic reacting flows (re-entry): strong nonequilibrium, large effect on heating, radiation
- Long history of proposed simplified models; realism can be improved **if** reaction behavior is well understood
- After flurry of work inspired by BSUV data, many felt that without new measurements, further work unfruitful
- New(ish) Quantum Kinetic (QK) model proposed by Bird has generated renewed interest



QK Model



- See G.A. Bird, Gallis, references therein
- Very appealing simplicity
- Impressively predicts thermal rate coefficients $k(T)$ over wide T range in good agreement with measured/recommended values
- The present paper investigates the behavior of $\sigma(E)$, or reaction probability per collision, important for strongly nonequilibrium flows
- Available detailed quasi-classical trajectory (QCT) results for $\sigma(E)$ for 2 important reactions are used to evaluate



Model Definitions

- **QK dissociation: $P_{\text{react}} = 1$ for $E_c > E_a$, $= 0$ otherwise**
- **QK exchange:**
- **Total Collision Energy (TCE)*: reproduces**
 - $k(T) = AT^B \exp(-E_a/T)$ for given values of A, B, E_a and ζ
- **Both models need total collision cross section values: VHS model parameters selected so that collision-pair viscosity matches values predicted by Capitelli (ref) in 5,000 – 15,000K range**
- *** Bird, 1994.**



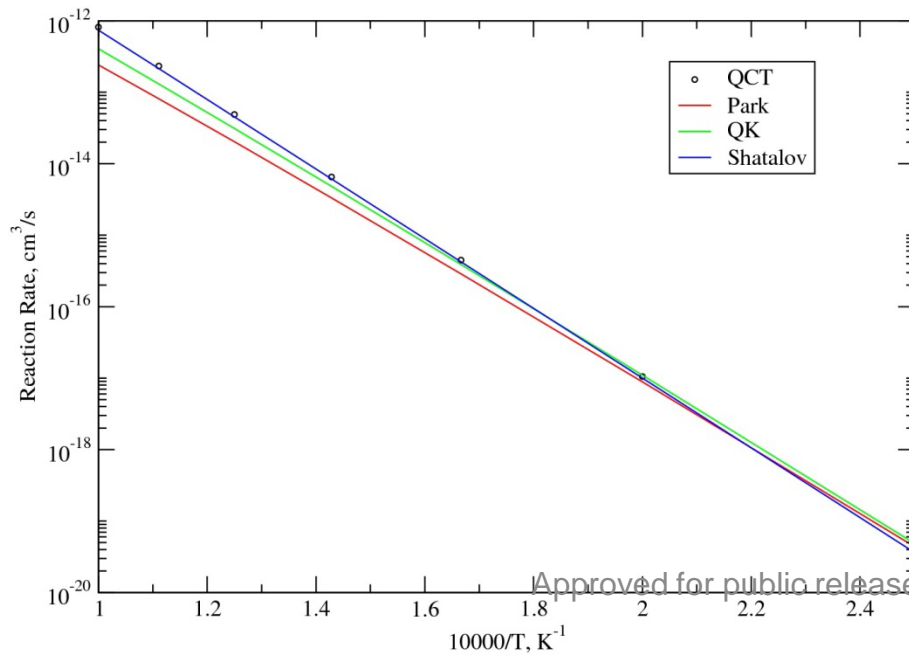
Vibrational Energy Levels

- **Original TCE model used continuous internal energy modes**
- **Later work adapted it for quantized internal energy levels, see esp Gimelshein (ref) and discussion of small correction factor to use for simple harmonic oscillator (SHO) levels; zero-point vibrational energy (ZPE) is included in total collision energy**
- **QCT calculations of course use real vibrational energy level values (closer to AHO)**
- **This work compares DSMC results for SHO levels to QCT results for AHO levels which have same E_{vib}**



$\text{N}_2 + \text{N}$ Dissociation Reaction

- Plot of thermal reaction rate coefficients
- TCE model uses published Arrhenius parameters as input and will match QCT $k(T)$ by definition
- QK model uses no adjustable parameters and matches QCT (and expt) $k(T)$ quite closely

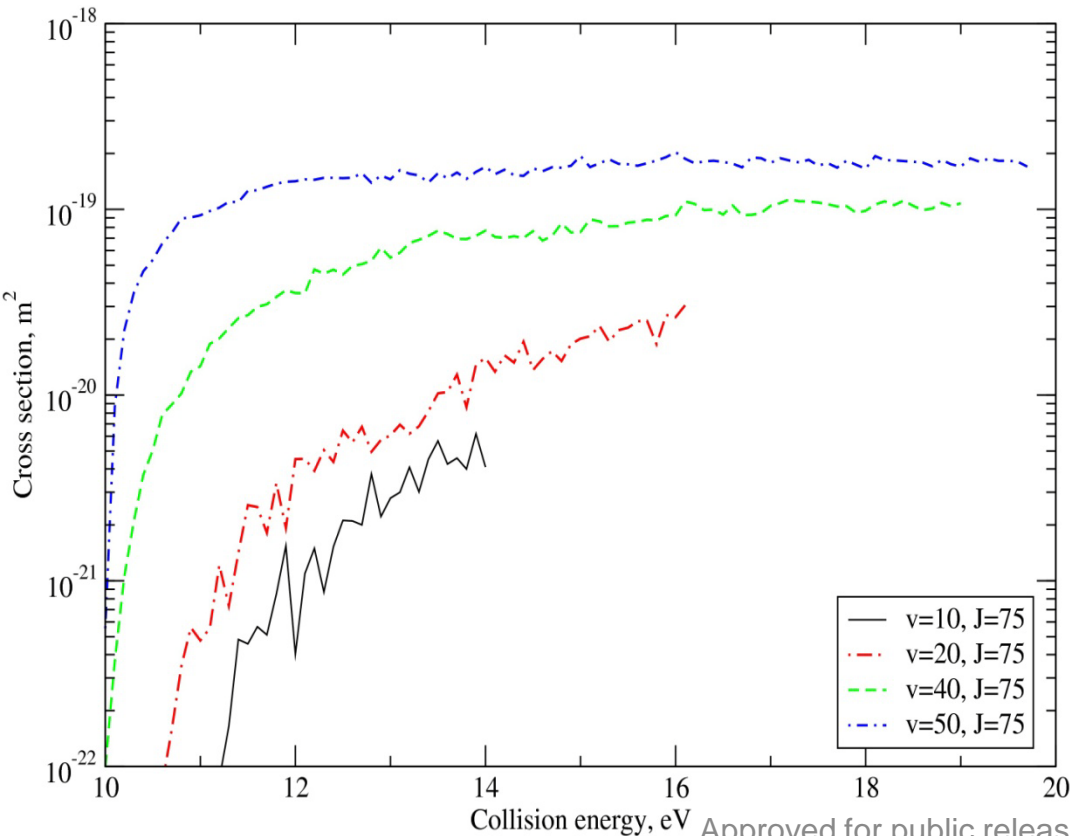


QCT results from Esposito et al., (Chem Phys. 331 2006)



$\text{N}_2 + \text{N}$ Dissociation Reaction

- **QCT σ results from Esposito** (Chem Phys Lett 302, 1999 and unpublished)
- **Dissociation reaction, as is well-known, has strong vibrational favoring**



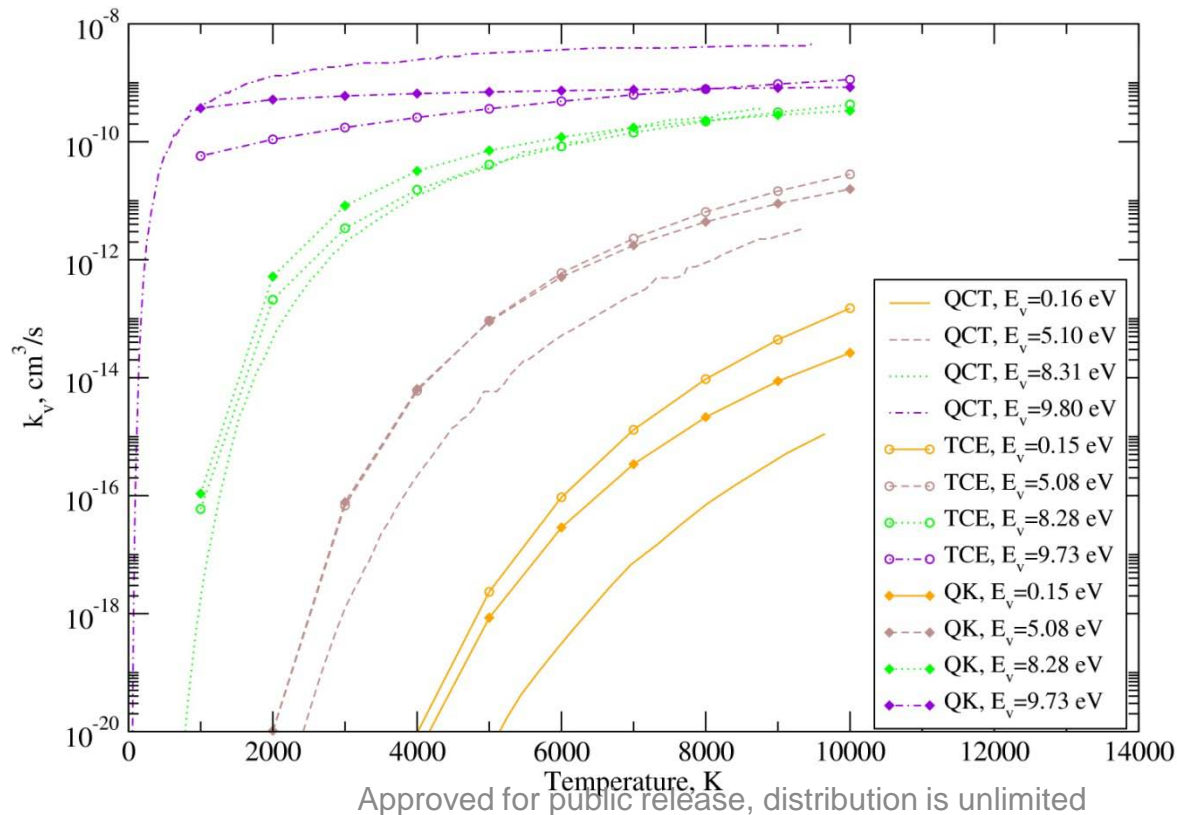
QCT cross sections at same E_c show $>100\times$ difference in σ !

No simplified DSMC reaction model includes this effect



$\text{N}_2 + \text{N}$ Dissociation Reaction

- State-specific thermal rates $k_v(T)$
- TCE and QK models both have $k_v(T)$ that are high for low- v and low for high- v levels. No surprise.

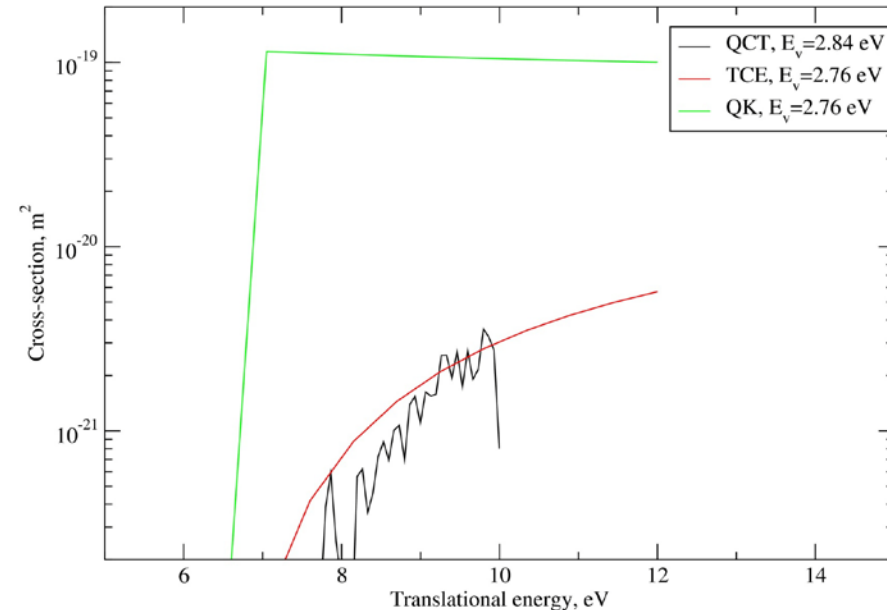




$\text{N}_2 + \text{N}$ Dissociation Reaction



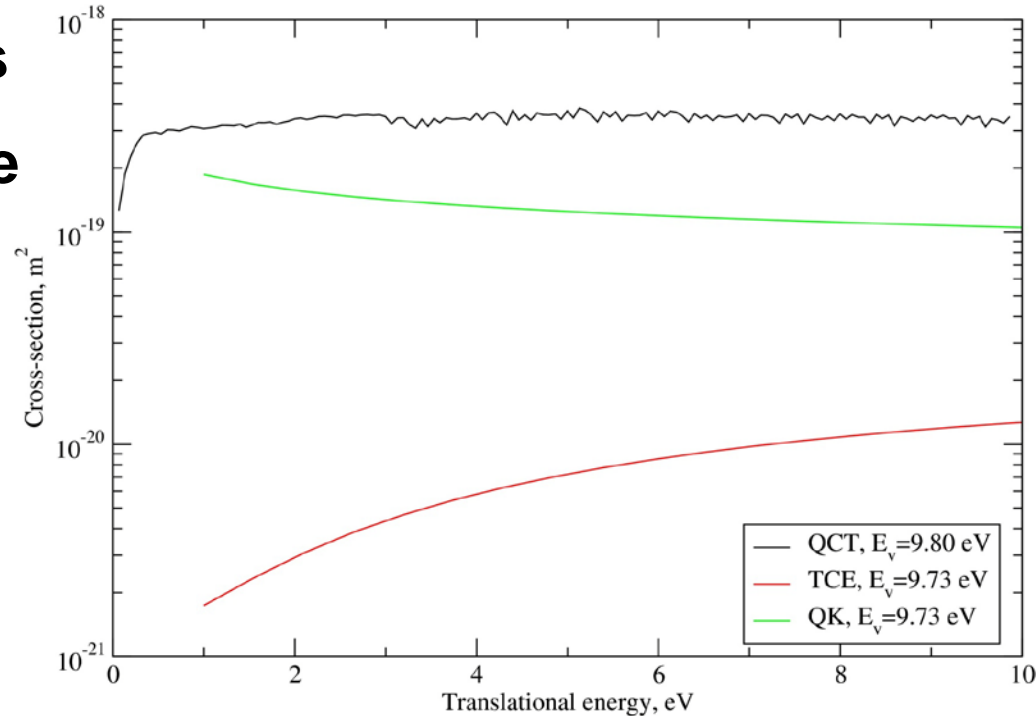
- QK assumes that each collision above threshold energy has unity reaction probability
- TCE matches realistic QCT σ surprisingly closely





N_2+N Dissociation Reaction

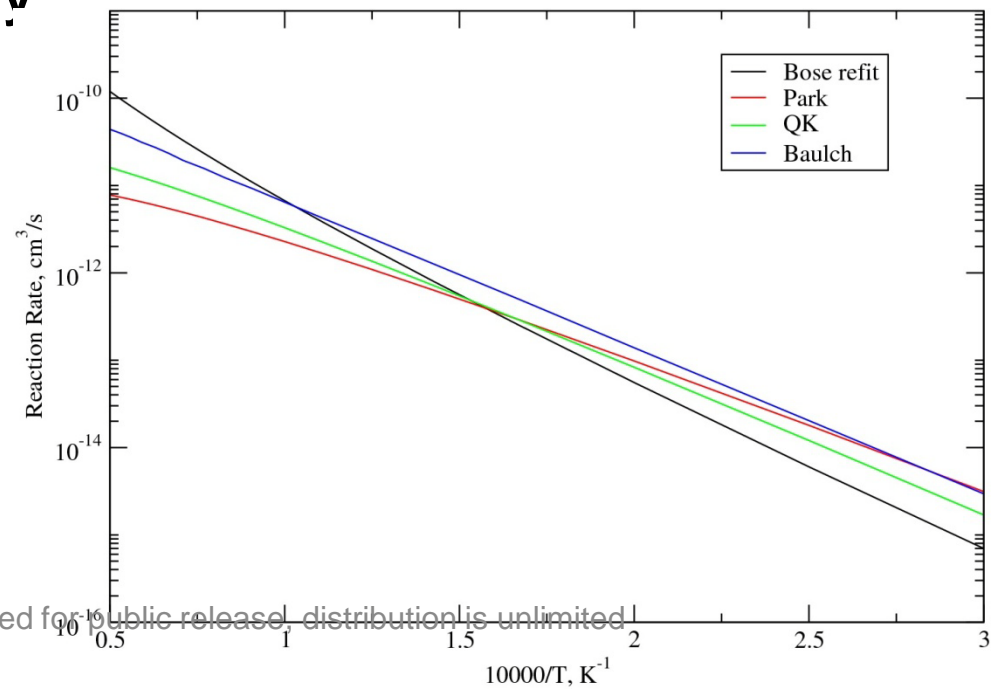
- For $v=60$, QCT has $\sigma_{\text{diss}} \geq \sigma_{\text{total}}$; QK very close to this
- TCE far underestimates the probability for very high v
- For flows with mainly low v populated, QK may be problematic





N_2+O Exchange Reaction $k(T)$

- $N_2+O \rightarrow NO + N$ QCT results from Bose and Candler, unpublished
- Plot of thermal reaction rate coefficients
- TCE model uses published Arrhenius parameters as input and will match QCT $k(T)$ by definition
- QK model uses no adjustable parameters and matches QCT (and expt) $k(T)$ reasonably



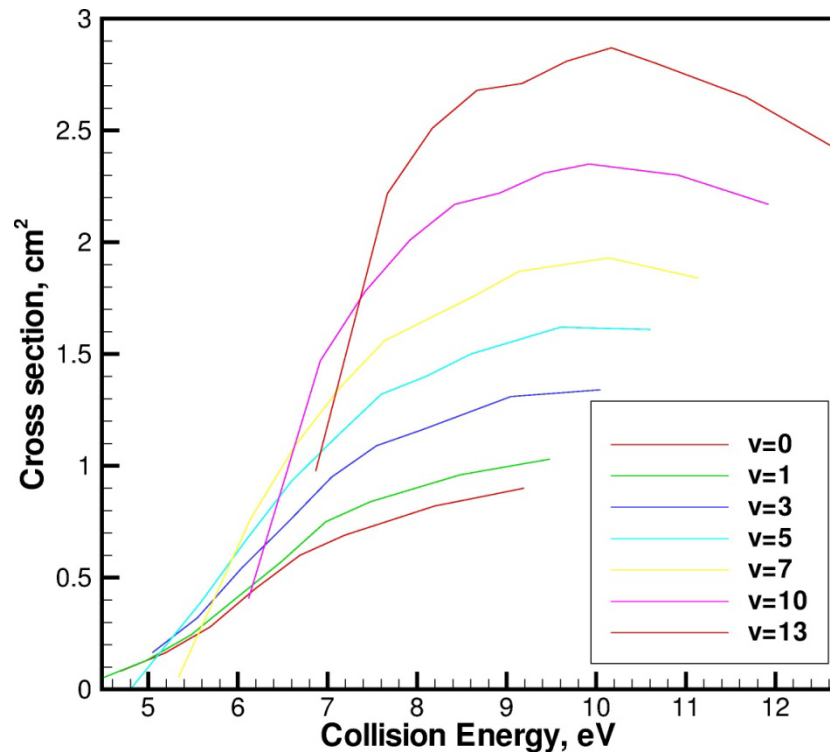
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$\text{N}_2 + \text{O}$ Exchange Reaction



- This (and many other) exchange reactions have no strong vibrational favoring



QCT cross sections at same E_c show $\sim 3x$ difference in σ

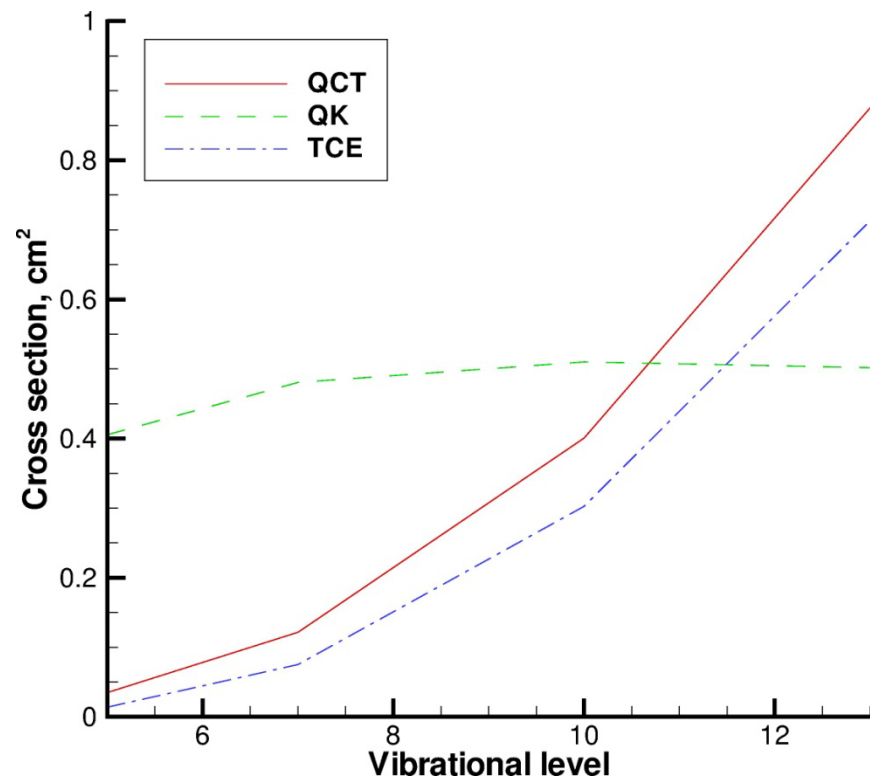
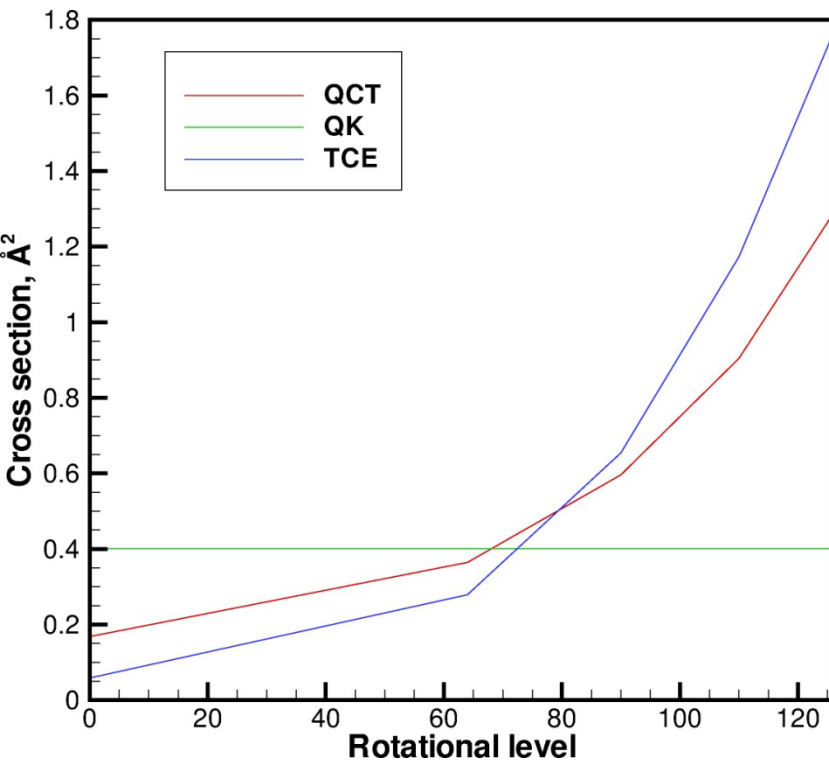
Lends itself more readily to a simplified DSMC model



$\text{N}_2 + \text{O}$ Exchange Reaction



- Overall shape of $\sigma(E)$ much better represented by TCE model

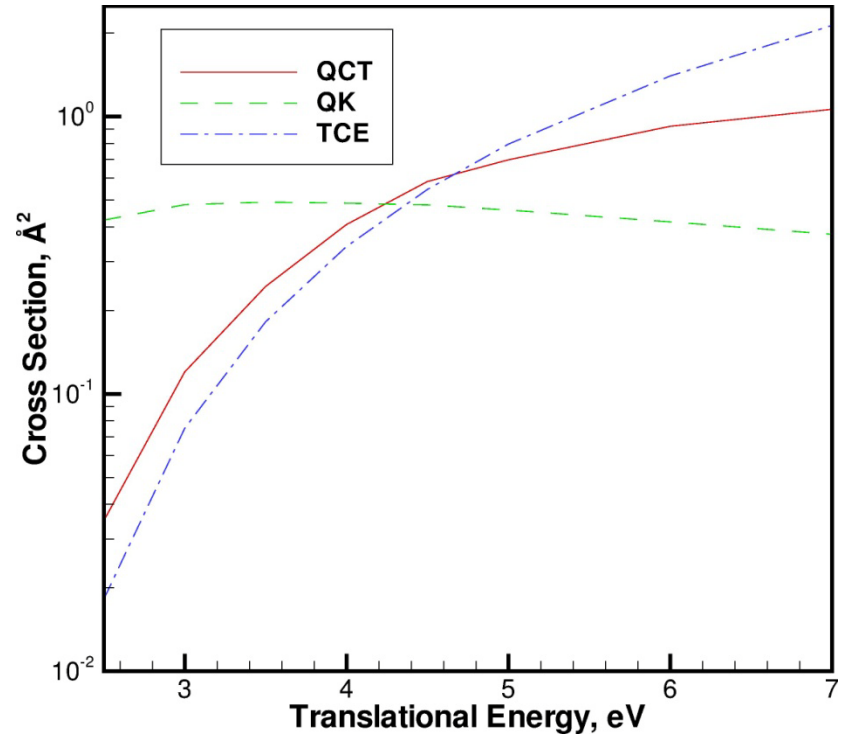
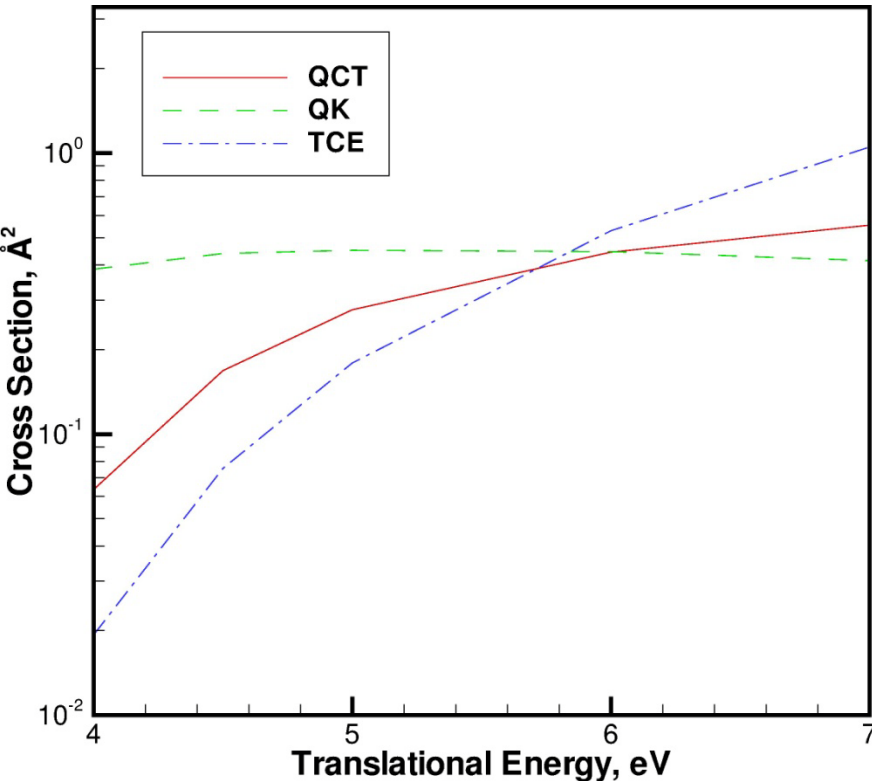




N_2+O Exchange Reaction



- Overall shape of $\sigma(E)$ much better represented by TCE model, $v=0$ and $v=5$ examples ($J=0$)

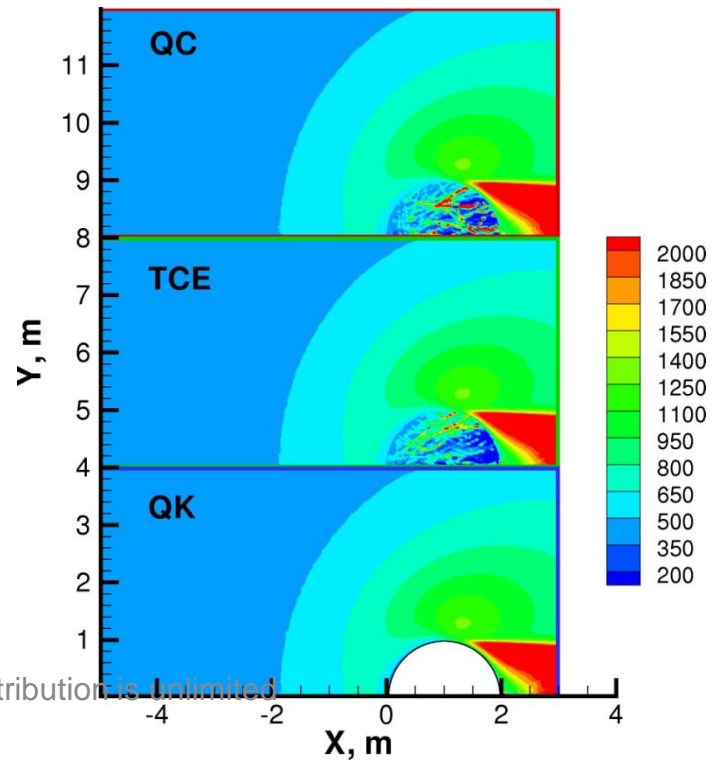
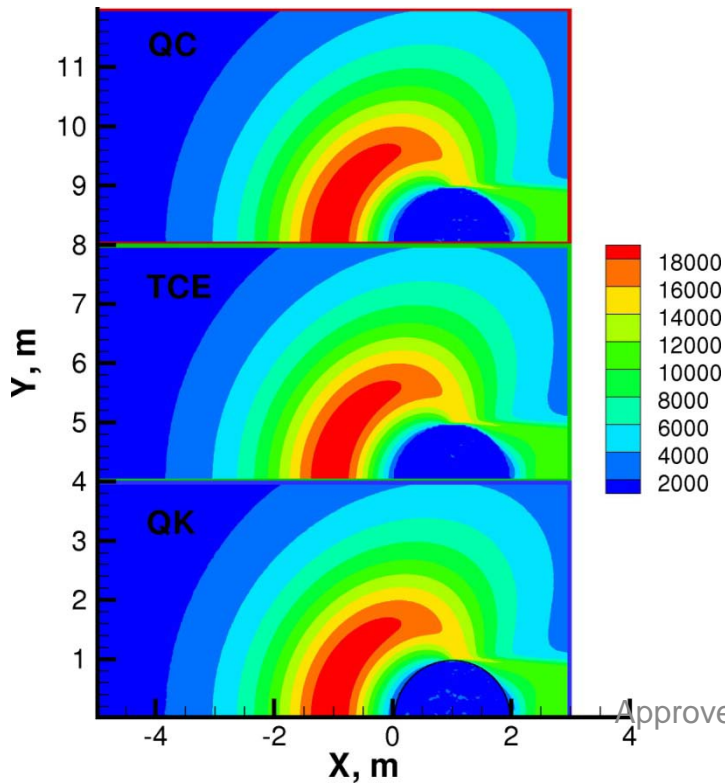




Sensitivity of Flowfield Results to N₂+O reaction model



- Simple axisymmetric flow over cylinder, **8 km/s**, 120 km (fractions of N₂, O?) nearly single-collision
- QCT cross sections were used in one run as look-up table with interpolation for comparison



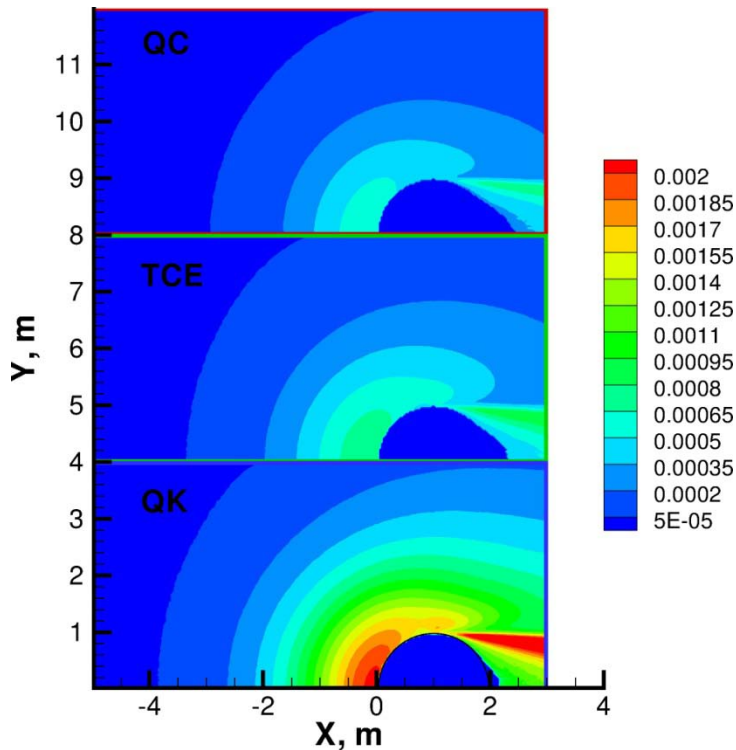
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Sensitivity of Flowfield Results



- NO product mole fraction, 8 km/s



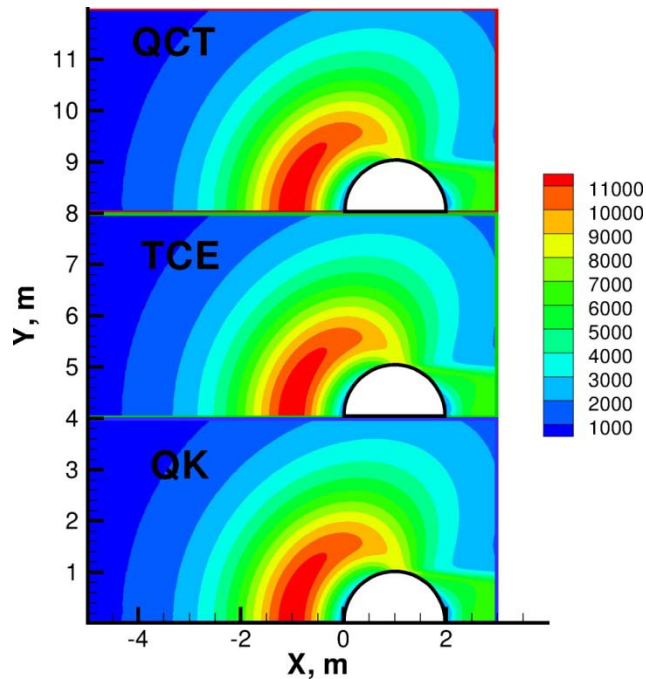
- Conclusion: As indicated by σ plot, QK model significantly overpredicts reaction probability near threshold
- QK NO fraction is 3x high



Sensitivity of Flowfield Results to N2+O reaction model



- Simple axisymmetric flow over cylinder, **6 km/s**, 120 km (fractions of N2, O?) nearly single-collision



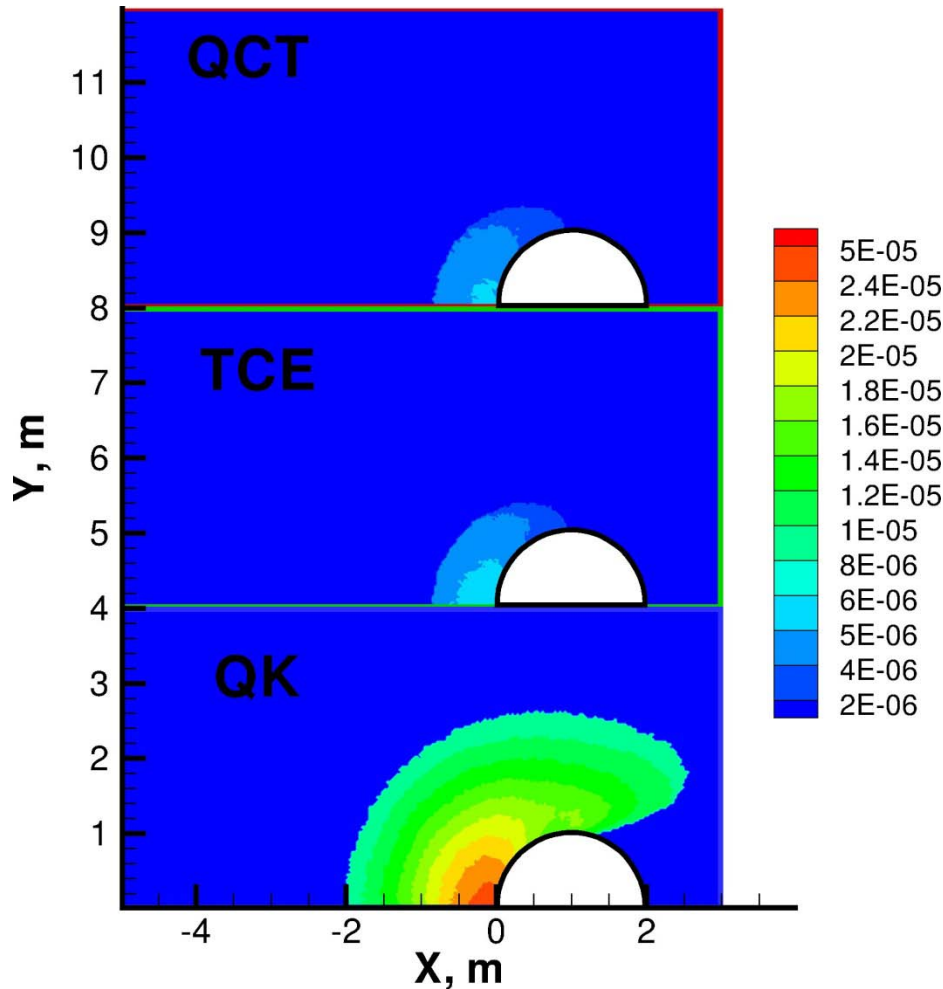
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Sensitivity of Flowfield Results



- NO product mole fraction, 6 km/s



Conclusion: As indicated by σ plot, QK model significantly overpredicts reaction probability near threshold



Summary and Recommendations



- **Present results are complementary to previous publications on QK model, focusing on noneq aspects**
- **for strongly nonequilibrium flows, the probability of reaction is sensitive to the shape of the energy-dependent cross section; TCE more realistic than QK model in this respect**
- **Possibly explore gaining the best of both?**